

OLYMPIC COAST  
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
Meeting Minutes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting  
July 18, 2013

Olympic Natural Resource Center  
1455 S. Forks Ave.  
Forks, WA

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary  
NOAA, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301  
Port Angeles, WA 98362-2925

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent:



Carol Bernthal, Superintendent

Approved by AC Chair:



Myles (Chip) Boothe, Chair

**Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance:** Myles (Chip) Boothe (WDOE), Brady Scott (WDNR), Ellen Matheny (Education), Lee Whitford (Education), John Veentjer (Marine Business/Industry), CDR Scott Stewart (USCG), Bob Boekelheide (Citizen at Large), Les Bolton (Tourism/ Economic Development), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), Heather Reed (WDFW), John Stadler (NMFS), Sarah Creachbaum (ONP), Steve Fradkin (ONP), Steve Joner (Makah Tribe), Roy Morris (Citizen at Large), Lora Leschner (Conservation), Katrina Lassiter (WDNR), Joe Schumacker (Quinault Nation), Frank Gordon (Grays Harbor County Commission), Dana Sarff (Makah Tribe)

**Presenters and Members of the Public in Attendance:** Al Carter (Ocean Gold), Shaari Unger (US Navy), Casey Dennehy (Surfrider), Rich Osborne (ONRC), Robert Jones (Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission), Judith Morris (Office of Rep. Kilmer), Lalena Amiotte (WDNR), Otis Bush (Evergreen State University)

**NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance:** Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Kevin Grant, Liam Antrim and Karlyn Langjahr (OCNMS)

Chip Boothe called meeting to order and Ellen Matheny gave a welcoming to Olympic Natural Resources Center, part of the University of Washington's School of Environmental and Forest Sciences. She offered to guide anyone interested on a short tour of ONRC after the meeting to become familiar with the facility.

**Adopt Agenda** – The draft agenda was adopted without changes. ***Les Bolton motioned to approve the meeting agenda and Joe Schumacker seconded; unanimous support was voiced, with no one opposed or abstaining.***

#### **Internal Affairs:**

**Approval of May 2013 Meeting Minutes** – There were no comments or discussions. ***John Stadler made a motion to approve the May 2013 meeting minutes; Heather Reed seconded; and unanimous support was voiced, with no one opposed or abstaining.***

**Young Adult Subcommittee** – Ellen reported on behalf of the Young Adult Subcommittee in Chair Alan Rammer's absence. The group met in June to discuss ideas and preliminary research to bring youth representation onto the Advisory Council. The initiative for developing Youth Seats on Advisory Councils came from ONMS Director, Dan Basta. The Subcommittee identified four options to consider further: 1) a traditional non-voting Youth Seat consisting of a high school student between the ages of 14-17; 2) a non-voting Student Seat open to a student (high school, college or graduate school) of any age; 3) a non-voting Mentor Seat in which a non-voting member of Advisory Committee recruits students/ student groups to attend and

participate in each AC meeting; 4) a Student Participation Program in which student groups or relevant classes/clubs are invited to participate in AC meetings held in or near their communities.

At this point Subcommittee members feel that a combination of the Mentor Seat with Student Participation Program could initially be the most feasible undertaking, but are continuing to consider and research all options. They hope to make participation active and engaging so that both the AC and student(s) benefit. Subcommittee will meet again in August and will present their final report and recommendations at the next AC meeting in September.

**Conservation and Tourism/Economic Development Seat Recruitments** – The Conservation seat has been vacant since Sandra Brooks resigned and the Tourism/Economic Development seat is now vacant with the recent departure of Jody Kennedy. OCNMS will be releasing the recruitment announcement for both seats via Federal Register Notice on August 15.

Application materials will be posted online at

[http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac\\_welcome.html](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac_welcome.html) and hard copies will be available at the OCNMS office in Port Angeles, with a submission deadline of Sept. 30, 2013. Any AC members with ideas for individual/ organization candidates for this seat should send names to [Karlyn.Langjahr@noaa.gov](mailto:Karlyn.Langjahr@noaa.gov).

**Biographies for OCNMS website** – We are still waiting for many members to submit short bios and a profile photo to update the OCNMS Advisory Council webpage. This is a NOAA requirement enabling OCNMS member information to be transparent to the public and to highlight the experience and expertise of AC members. Please send to [Karlyn.Langjahr@noaa.gov](mailto:Karlyn.Langjahr@noaa.gov).

### **Information Items:**

**Ocean Acidification Working Group (OAWG) Report** – Kevin Grant reported that letters on behalf of both the AC and Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) have been sent to the Office of the Governor with recommendations that were approved by the AC at the last meeting in May (refer to [http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/trans\\_ipc.pdf](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/trans_ipc.pdf)). They have received confirmation of the letter but have not yet responded. The OAWG discussed the idea of writing Op Ed pieces as individuals suggesting to the federal government that they support Action 8.1.2 and continue to fund ocean acidification research and efforts. Lee Whitford replaced Brady Scott as the OAWG Chair, as Brady Scott no longer has time to uphold those duties. Lee reminded OAWG members to send her their Op Ed pieces. There was a discussion of the existing efforts and technology for studying ocean acidification. The next step of the OAWG is to determine the specific priorities for implementing their selected actions. They will report back to the AC at the September meeting.

Kevin announced that the NOAA Ship *Fairweather* will be surveying OA conditions this summer as part of long-term monitoring. The major research cruise objectives are to characterize the OA conditions on the U.S. west coast; to conduct inter-calibration measurements near other OA observing assets in the study area; to provide calibration data needed to develop predictive models for aragonite saturation state, pH, and other important OA indicators in the California Current System; to provide quantitative assessment of phytoplankton, zooplankton, and harmful algal bloom activity in conjunction with OA measurements; and to provide scientific information on OA conditions and trends for resource management and decision support. A post-doctorate researcher studying pteropods will also join the OA cruise. Sampling is projected to include several stations in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary waters in early August.

Kevin also reported that the University of Washington has been designated to house the state's Ocean Acidification Center. AC Research representative Dr. Jan Newton and former AC Chair, Dr. Terrie Klinger, will be the co-directors of this center. Carol has mentioned the joint AC and IPC's work on ocean acidification during briefings to congressional delegations with positive reception, including Representative Kilmer and Senator Murray's staff.

**Washington State Department of Natural Resources** – Brady Scott provided an overview of Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as background and context for their two presentations. By Article 17 in the state constitution, legislature delegated DNR and the Commission of Public Lands as the Washington State authority to manage the bed and shores of navigable waters (state-owned aquatic lands, about 2.6 million acres). DNR's primary goals are to: foster water dependent use, ensure environmental protection, encourage public use and access, utilize renewable resources, and—where consistent with those four goals—generate revenue. In OCNMS, DNR retains management from extreme low waters out to three miles, overlapping jurisdiction with the sanctuary and other regulatory agencies. Legislature transferred management of the tidelands along the Olympic Coast to State Parks, of which a portion was given management authority to National Parks Service.

DNR's aquatic land management is proprietary in nature, as opposed to regulatory, and runs out of the Aquatic Resources Division. The primary role of district staff is to work with land use authorizations (e.g. leases, easements) and to undertake restoration projects and environmental stewardship activities.

- 1. DNR Aquatic Lands Habitat Conservation Plan** – Lalena Amiotte is the Aquatic Lands HCP Unit Supervisor for DNR and presented on DNR's Aquatic Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). They are the first in the country go through the federal process of devising a conservation plan for all of the state's aquatic land. HCPs are

planning documents to help protect the ecosystems that ESA-listed species depend upon, helping to contribute to their overall recovery. The listing of salmon helped catalyze DNR's voluntary efforts to conduct a technical analysis to determine if they had liability under section 10 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The HCP was developed to avoid and minimize the impact of their leasing program activities on the 29 at-risk species and is part of an application for an incidental take permit. The HCP would be in effect for 50 years and includes specific measures to address impacts from overwater structures, log booms, and shellfish aquaculture. DNR is focusing on addressing changes in sediment, pollution, contamination and noise. DNR also has an adaptive management plan to take into consideration unforeseen effects, such as climate change impacts.

Some of the ESA-listed species DNR tries to help protect are also found in OCNMS. DNR also occasionally authorizes uses and development activity in the sanctuary. The HCP will be released in September for a 90-day public review process. Lalena encouraged everyone to review the plan, particularly chapter 5, and to submit comments. For more information and to access the HCP, visit [www.dnr.wa.gov/aquatichcp](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/aquatichcp)

- 2. Marine Spatial Planning Efforts in Washington** – Katrina Lassiter, Policy Analyst for DNR spoke about Washington state efforts in marine spatial planning (MSP), under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.372, enacted in 2010 and amended in 2012. It defined marine spatial planning in Washington as a public process of analyzing and allocating the spatial and temporal distributions of human activities in marine environments to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives. The four major outlined actions items include: 1) creating maps, 2) engaging with stakeholders, 3) developing data tools for mapping and analysis, and 4) conducting an ecosystem assessment. The legislature chose Department of Ecology as the state planning entity and created a Marine Resource Stewardship Trust Account with \$2.1 million in funding for these activities. DNR was delegated to determine how funding is spent and to manage MSP funds. A significant amount of time was dedicated to conducting stakeholder outreach, tribal consultation, government coordination and public input processes. Currently DNR is in a pre-planning phase and finalizing its initial research projects. DNR will continue to collect data over the course of this year and next year and try to identify more in-depth information about human uses to include sections on each sector. They will then move forward with ecosystem indicators to create an ecosystem indicator assessment. The mapping tool that DNR devises will have the ability to view scenarios in order to depict potential conflicts in human uses, enabling for better planning efforts. The overall end goal for the final MSP is for it to be adopted into the Washington Coastal Zone
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Management Program. Washington State is seeking public comments and feedback until 5pm on Monday, Sept. 23 about the goals, objectives, boundaries and other issues that should be assessed under the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the coast. Information on the scoping process can be found at [www.msp.wa.gov/news](http://www.msp.wa.gov/news) Katrina demonstrated the use and relevance of the two of the main components of the marine spatial planning tools to OCNMS. One application is the access information and/or reports about current projects at <http://www.msp.wa.gov/explore> including:

- marine economic baseline for the coast
- bathymetric, sediment characterization and topographic surveys
- mapping and modeling coastal oceanographic trends
- ecosystem indicators and conceptual model for the coast
- data evaluation and seafloor mapping strategy

The other application is to access the interactive mapping tool to explore data layers showing human uses, marine life, habitat, physical oceanography, and more. The tool is designed to support collaborative participation in the MSP process. Carol reminded the Advisory Council that OCNMS has a coastal marine spatial planning action plan in its Management Plan.

**Study Area Profile for OCNMS and Socioeconomic Values of Resources** – George Galasso of OCNMS updated the AC on the recent social science efforts of the sanctuary and the Socioeconomic Action Plan under the OCNMS Management Plan. George primarily addressed the first of the three main questions of social scientists: “Who are the stakeholders?”, “How are the stakeholders using the resources?” and “How important are the resources to the stakeholders?” OCNMS and collaborators listed socioeconomic evaluation as a priority issue during the management plan review scoping and identified the overall goal to “facilitate wise and sustainable use in the sanctuary to the extent that such uses are compatible with resource protection.” A 2009 workshop on Socioeconomic Values of Resources in OCNMS was held for partners to help identify the information and data gaps in socioeconomic values of resources and determine what sanctuary research should entail in the coming years. OCNMS Management Plan implementation priorities for FY 2013 include 1) the creation of a Study Area Profile, and 2) the participation in and support of the Pacific Regional Ocean Uses Atlas Project.

George sought Advisory Council input on the definition of Study Area Profile (refer to [http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/ac\\_socioeconomic13.pdf](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/ac_socioeconomic13.pdf)), which will provide the basis of analyses to establish dependencies of local communities on sanctuary resource uses. Profiles include a county or collection of counties where the majority of economic impacts and social impacts are associated with use of sanctuary resources. The draft Study Area Profile currently includes the three coastal counties where OCNMS boundaries occur: Clallam, Jefferson and

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Grays Harbor counties. The source of demographic and economic profiles is primarily from the Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Advisory Council members discussed their ideas and opinions on which geographic areas should be included for OCNMS's Study Area Profile. Carol suggested that we retain the counties as is, with additional narrative analyzed to capture the east to west dynamics within those counties. OCNMS will collaborate with Washington state Marine Spatial Planning efforts.

**Public Comment** – Rich Osborne announced that the June edition of West End Natural Resources News was released and that copies are available on the back table.

**National Marine Sanctuary System Condition Report 2013** – Steve Gittings, Science Coordinator from Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, presented on the recently released National Marine Sanctuary System Condition Report. The purpose of the report is to inform ONMS and its partners on priority issues and challenges facing the thirteen national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument as a system, and to discuss actions to address them. The document will be used to engage partners, political interests and academic organizations in both challenges and opportunities facing the sanctuaries; promote a better understanding of the system; and solicit support that furthers the program mission and addresses its priorities and needs. The full report can be found at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/library/pdfs/ncr2013.pdf>

In the marine sanctuaries, a Conservation Science program that involves monitoring, characterization and applied research was created to help understand the way sanctuary ecosystems operate and to respond to impending problems. ONMS utilizes System-Wide Monitoring (SWiM), a consistent approach with tailored local monitoring to track resources and human use. The framework of SWiM consists of assessing ecosystem health indicators such as water, habitat and living resources. It also measures human influences, qualities that enable an ecosystem to adapt to change or recover from disturbance. Overall sanctuaries rated water quality condition higher than habitat and living resources. The factor most influencing water quality is proximity to human development. Human activities pre-dating the establishment of marine sanctuaries continue to pose significant challenges to management in regard to habitat quality. Many ecosystem processes operating at scales beyond marine sanctuary boundaries—such as migratory patterns, regional climate variation, and increasing ocean use—pose large challenges to the quality of living resources. Any damage to maritime archaeological resource quality is permanent and may require different approaches to protection than those for natural resources. The major concerns that emerged from this report include: marine debris, changing abundance of key species, non-indigenous species, fishing impacts, spills, tourism and visitation, coastal development, ship strikes, threats to archaeological resources, offshore industry, degraded water quality, climate change, ocean acidification, and noise.



The report also discusses the need for more monitoring and research, the critical role of dedicated citizens who volunteer their time and talents, and the role of partnerships and coordination with communities and local, state, federal, and territorial governments in protecting special marine places. Together with site-based reports, the National Condition Report will help direct the course of development and support for conservation science across the national system. Though the report is not intended to act as an implementation plan, it does provide a synthesis of nationally-significant information that can help inform sanctuary-level conservation science programming, investment and decision making.

**Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) to Monitor Seabird and Marine Debris in OCNMS** –OCNMS staff Liam Antrim represented Research Coordinator Ed Bowlby's efforts on a pilot project in mid to late June to monitor seabirds, marine mammals and marine debris using Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). The project was conducted in three National Wildlife Refuges (NWR), three tribal reservations, Olympic National Park (ONP) wilderness areas, and FAA and military operation zones. The project involved partnerships with US Fish and Wildlife Service Washington Maritime NWR Complex, NOAA and Washington State Marine Debris Programs, Quinault Indian Nation, Quileute Tribe, ONP, WDFW and NOAA/NMFS. The overall mission of this pilot project was to determine how well UAS could work to census seabird colonies (identification, reproductive levels, population and distribution) and when possible, marine mammals (sea otters, pinnipeds and cetaceans). They also looked for shoreline marine debris accumulation and offshore zones of tsunami marine debris. The project also generated significant outreach through media exposure. The main reasons for undergoing UAS monitoring efforts are to minimize noise disturbance to wildlife, reduce the risk to human safety associated with manned aerial surveys and reduce the operating costs.

The primary UAS employed was the Puma, resembling a model airplane with a 9-foot wingspan, which can be launched and recovered from both water and land. A four-bladed helicopter called the Quadrocopter was the secondary UAS. Launch sites included Point Grenville in the Quinault Indian Nation and La Push on the Quileute Reservation. Liam displayed preliminary photos and videos captured by both UAS, noting that the efforts seemed more successful overall for seabird monitoring than marine mammals and beach/marine debris.

**Re-establishing the Sanctuary Nomination Process** – Carol Bernthal updated the Advisory Council on NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) intention to re-establish a sanctuary nomination process. This past January the OCNMS Advisory Council passed a resolution supporting the reactivation of the Site Evaluation List (SEL). NOAA's statutory mandate to identify, designate and protect marine areas of special national significance has existed since 1972 through the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. The SEL was deactivated in 1995 so that ONMS could focus on management of the existing sanctuary system. Since then, several individuals and entities—Members of Congress, state and tribal governments, non-government organizations, academic institutions and others—have inquired about designating new national marine sanctuaries. NOAA does not currently have a process of formally considering such requests. This is being addressed by replacing the deactivated Site Evaluation



List with a new sanctuary nomination process. The new sanctuary nomination process is based on a more grassroots, “bottom-up” approach with a new opportunity for local communities and other interested parties to provide NOAA with robust, criteria-driven proposals to consider areas for new national marine sanctuaries. The proposed rule seeks public comment on the criteria and process NOAA would use to evaluate community-based nominations—as well as associated changes to ONMS regulations—*not* to nominate potential sanctuaries. Once the new process is final, NOAA will solicit nominations for areas to consider as new national marine sanctuaries.

The sixty-day public comment period began on June 28 with the release of the announcement in the Federal Register Notice and will close on Aug 27, 2013. Individual members of the Advisory Council are encouraged to submit electronic comments on the new criteria at <http://www.regulations.gov> (search for docket # NOAA-NOS-2013-0091). To learn more about the Sanctuary Evaluation Process visit <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/management/nomination/welcome.html>

**Public Comment** – There were no public comments.

#### **Superintendent’s Report:**

1. Carol reported that OCNMS is in its busiest season, particularly its Education program with the summer Junior Oceanographer and ROV camps, North Olympic Watershed science program for local schools, Ocean Science Workshop for teachers, Ocean Science outreach to outer coast communities, and more.
2. OCNMS has hosted three NOAA Office of Education Hollings Scholars, undergraduate students in the natural resource management and science fields. Vanessa Constant worked on analyses of oceanographic data; Katie O’Reilly led the Junior Oceanographer and ROV summer camps; and Kevin Pelstring developed OCNMS carbon footprint audit as part of the Climate Smart sanctuary program.
3. The Olympic Coast Discovery Center is in its peak season and will be open daily through Labor Day weekend and then weekends only through mid-October for the Dungeness Crab and Seafood Fest. Ten new volunteer docents were trained this year to help staff the Discovery Center.
4. The Director of Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST), Dr. Julia Parrish, was honored with the Champion of Change award for her excellence in citizen science. Julia Parrish wished to thank OCNMS for its partnership; COASST is a partner of OCNMS and staff Heidi Pedersen coordinate’s the Olympic Peninsula COASST efforts. The next COASST training will take place on Aug 10 in Forks at WDNR.
5. OCNMS has been working on the five-year review for Essential Fish Habitat with a Call for Proposals by the Pacific Fishery Management Council, to submit any proposed amendments to the existing designated conservation areas. OCNSM has been analyzing data for Olympic 2 and working with WA-DFW to identify any potential options for modification.

6. CoastSavers is coordinating a large beach clean-up effort at Point Grenville near Taholah on July 27 before the arrival of the canoes of Tribal Journeys. In celebration of International Beach Clean-up, CoastSavers will host a clean-up on September 21 similar to the efforts it organizes each April.
7. OCNMS is rebuilding the port engine of *R/V Tatoosh* after it broke down in the field but is expected to return to the water in late July.

For more information, refer to the Office Report at  
[http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/office\\_071813.pdf](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/office_071813.pdf)

### **Member Reports & Future Agenda Topic Ideas –**

Jennifer Hagen suggested we continue Marine Resource Committee discussions at the next SAC meeting about long-term removal of debris, particularly on beaches and in wilderness areas. She will put together a list of ideas or objectives that she hopes will result from this discussion. She invited everyone to attend Quileute Days July 19-21 in LaPush and noted that the Quileute community is busy making preparations for Tribal Journeys.

Roy Morris is glad that Lake Ozette Sockeye Recovery (LOSR) work is scheduled to be on the agenda for the September meeting.

John Stadler is on the five year salmon Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) review committee. He will be presenting on salmon EFH to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC). The EFH review committee submitted a written report in September to PFMC. Decisions on whether to begin the amendment processes will take place at the November PFMC meeting. They will also be reviewing salmon EFH in September.

Steve Fradkin noted that ONP will begin its razor clam stock assessment on Kalaloch Beach next week in addition to Quinault Tribe and WDFW.

Joe Schumacker shared that the Quinault Indian Nation, along with the Makah and Quileute tribes, have been awarded NOAA funds to work within Regional Ocean Partnership starting Oct 1 to form a regional planning body that may form a sub-regional Washington state entity. He also introduced Otis Bush in the public, a graduate student at Evergreen State University, studying relationships between tribes and marine protected areas.

Steve Joner shared that there seems to be exceptional abundance of salmon in the North coast this year of Chinook and Coho along with other large fish such as Pacific cod.

Les Bolton mentioned that they are pleased and honored to participate in the Paddle to Quinault this year and hope to arrive in Neah Bay on July 26 to escort the canoes to Point

Grenville on Aug 1. They will have someone from Northwest Indian News, an emergency room physician and EMT on board and are looking for an inflatable boat capable of putting someone on a backboard. Hawai'ian Chieftain will travel with the faster canoes and Lady Washington will accompany the slower canoes. Les brought copies of their newsletter. He also shared that they have their new site of 38 acres and are planning to sign a contract very soon. On Tues July 23 Greater Grays Harbor Inc. is conducting a workshop on how businesses can benefit from the Tribal Journeys.

Chip Boothe shared that Vessel Traffic Risk Assessment work at the comprehensive evaluation level is coming to a close in the near future. They are expecting the delivery of a final report in Sept. or Oct. If it is ready before the next SAC meeting, he will deliver a preliminary final assessment with the group, particularly a risk mitigation strategy development that could be relevant to OCNMS. Anyone interested in attending meeting on this subject is welcome at the Federal Center South in Seattle on Aug 7.

Brady mentioned that the Science Working Group is scheduled to form in the fall; Carol aims to draft a charter for this WG at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Please send any other ideas for the Sept. meeting agenda to Karlyn or Executive Committee members.

The meeting was adjourned and it was announced that the next OCNMS Advisory Council meeting will take place on **Friday, September 20** in La Push.